

In the Claims

1.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A micro-organism, comprising an expression vector that encodes and is capable of producing dsRNA, in which said expression vector comprises a promoter or promoters oriented relative to a DNA sequence such that the promoter or promoters initiate transcription of said DNA sequence to double stranded RNA upon binding of a transcription factor to said promoter or promoters.

31. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, in which said expression vector comprises two identical promoters flanking said DNA sequence.

32. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, in which said expression vector comprises said DNA sequence in a sense and an antisense orientation relative to said promoter or promoters.

33. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, in which said transcription factor is a phage polymerase.

34. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 33, in which said promoter(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of T7, T3 and SP6 promoter(s).

35. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, wherein said micro-organism is adapted to express said transcription factor.

36. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 35, wherein said transcription factor is T7 polymerase.

37. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, in which said DNA sequence has been derived from *C. elegans*.

38. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 37, in which said DNA sequence is a *C. elegans*-derived cDNA or cDNA fragment.

39. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 30, wherein the micro-organism is a bacterium.

40. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 39, wherein said bacterium is *E. coli*.

41. (Original) A micro-organism according to claim 40, wherein said *E. coli* is a RNase III negative strain.

42.-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A method for introducing double stranded RNA (dsRNA), or an expression vector a DNA that encodes and is capable of producing dsRNA, into *C. elegans*, comprising

feeding to *C. elegans* a micro-organism comprising an expression vector said DNA that encodes and is capable of producing dsRNA, in which said DNA ~~is in the form of an~~ expression vector comprises a promoter or promoters oriented relative to a DNA sequence such that the promoter or promoters initiate transcription of said DNA sequence to dsRNA upon binding of a transcription factor to said promoter or promoters.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 56, in which said expression vector comprises two identical promoters flanking said DNA sequence.

58. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 55 ~~[[56]]~~, in which said expression vector comprises said DNA sequence in a sense and an antisense orientation relative to said promoter or promoters.

59. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 55 ~~[[56]]~~, in which said transcription factor is a phage polymerase.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, in which said promoter(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of T7, T3 and SP6 promoter(s).

61. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 55 [[56]], in which said micro-organism is adapted to express said transcription factor.

62. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 61, in which said transcription factor is T7 polymerase.

63. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 55 [[56]], in which said *C. elegans* is adapted to express said transcription factor.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 63, in which said transcription factor is T7 polymerase.

65. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 54~~ or claim 55, in which the micro-organism is a bacterium.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 65, in which the bacterium is *E. coli*.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 66, in which the *E. coli* is a RNase III negative strain.

68. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 54~~ or claim 55, in which the *C. elegans* is DNase deficient.

69. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 68, in which the DNase deficient *C. elegans* is a nuc-1 mutant.

70. (New) A micro-organism according to claim 30, in which said DNA sequence has been derived from a pest.

71. (New) A micro-organism according to claim 70, in which said pest is a parasitic pest.
72. (New) A micro-organism according to claim 70, in which said pest is a nematode.
73. (New) A micro-organism according to claim 72, in which said nematode is a parasitic nematode.
74. (New) A micro-organism according to claim 70, in which said DNA sequence is a cDNA or cDNA fragment.
75. (New) A method according to claim 55, in which said DNA sequence has been derived from a pest.
76. (New) A method according to claim 75, in which said pest is a parasitic pest.
77. (New) A method according to claim 75, in which said pest is a nematode.
78. (New) A method according to claim 77, in which said nematode is a parasitic nematode.
79. (New) A method according to claim 75, in which said DNA sequence is a cDNA or cDNA fragment.